

The Editor's Mail Bag.

Opinions of Many Readers Upon the Issues that Engage the Public Mind—Some Views as to a Division of the Negro Vote.

THANKS FREEDMEN'S HOSPITAL.
Portland, Me., Nov. 22, 1899.
Editor Colored American:—Please mention in this week's issue that the Freedmen's Hospital, of Portland, Maine, thanks the Freedmen's Hospital for its report, and would gladly exchange, but as it is a city institution, and therefore has no separate report, all coming under the head of city affairs. Very respectfully,
EMILIE N. DORSTER DAVIS,
Freedmen's Hospital.

INFORMATION WANTED.
Fort Ringgold, Tex.—Inclosed find a postal money order for \$2.00 for a year's subscription. I ever did admire your great race journal and feel at a loss not to receive it at each publication as I think it is the best journal published in the interest of the colored race in America. If you are aware of any race enterprise in existence in which shares can be secured (barring the Coleman N. Co. as I have taken a \$5.00 share in that already,) I desire you to inform me of such, providing it is a reliable one. Kindly favor me a receipt for my subscription.
Your most obedient servant, T. K.

Mr. Editor:—I thank you heartily for your timely and straightforward defense of those who wish to take lunch in the first-class restaurants downtown. There would be a great convenience during shopping tours and after the theater, were it not for the narrow and silly prejudice of gossipers who are ready to think evil of every one who dares to go contrary to their notions of propriety. If a lady never does worse than to visit a quiet and orderly cafe, with an escort of good repute, the morals of the community will suffer no impairment. I glory in the courage of "One of the Sufferers" who wrote the original article, and hope others will respond to her plea for an honest agitation of the subject.
MARIE B. J.
Washington, D. C., Nov. 24.

GETTING AFTER LATE COMERS.
Editor Colored American:—Won't you please call attention to the lateness with which people come to the literary societies and other entertainments? They arrive just as the speaker, singer or reader is getting to an interesting part, and disturb those who have been courteous and thoughtful enough to come on time. They get up and leave with much ado before the close of the last piece, again to the disturbance of many who wish to enjoy the entire performance or exercise. The people should be in their seats at 8 o'clock, and show the program to begin promptly, and go on uninterruptedly to the end.
J. H. L.
11th Street N. W., Nov. 22.

PINCHBACK'S LIFE WANTED.
Editor Colored American:—A great many readers are anxious to know why a complete record of the life and public services of Ex-Governor P. B. S. Pinchback has never been published. A book embodying his personal recollections of politics in the "red-hot" reconstruction days, his stormy career in the governor's chair of Louisiana, his marvelous escape from assassination, his great race for the United States Senate, and the undercurrents that moved the famous "Old Guard," of which he is almost the only survivor, would read like a novel, and would be one of the "best sellers" that could be gotten up in this generation. It would be a veritable political text-book to the aspiring young Afro-American, and set a goal that would exert a beneficial influence upon his ambition. We ask the grand old Governor to think about this while he is vigorous and hearty, and prepare his "life" for publication.
N. W. B.
Pittsburg, Pa.

FAVORS DIVISION ALL AROUND.
Mr. Editor:—Being placed in that unfortunate position of the man who for some reason "can't vote as he thinks" as we have no vote at all—we feel called upon to relieve our mind by at least saying what we think on a subject now under discussion; and that is Bishop Walters' views concerning the division of the colored vote. Some of our friends favor division in local affairs, but not in national. For our part, we favor division all around, and any colored man who does not feel that next year (with President McKinley as the possible nominee of the republican party) is not a good year to divide the colored vote, must be deaf to the cry of their brother crying from the sod. Our temperament favors "speaking out in meeting," "standing up and being counted," "letting folks know where you are at," etc. Therefore we have greatly enjoyed Bishop Walters' interview in The Post, and the only consolation we can offer dissenters is that this is not only a time that the majority of the race do not object to the Bish-

op's giving this advice but will show their faith by their works by following it.

A WOMAN SUFFRAGIST.
Philadelphia, Pa.

DIVISION OF THE NEGRO VOTE.
Mr. Editor:—I heartily commend you for the defense you have made in behalf of Bishop A. Walters President of the National Afro-American Council, and particularly in allowing him space to defend himself. I rather think all who are not subsisting an administration paper or patiently waiting for the crumbs that might fall from their master's table, understood him quite well at first. There was a time in the history of the political world, when to be an Irishman meant to be a democrat, but since the Irish have divided their vote, they have enhanced their worth as American citizens and all parties are seeking their support. I am a republican, and have always voted so, but I am tired of the doctrine that the Afro-American belongs to the republican party, soul and body, now and forever more. I believe that the highest type of citizenship is to serve one's country, race and self to the best interest of all concerned, and it is ridiculous to fight for a country that does not protect your rights or en masse support a party that does not insure and maintain your life and whether it is good advice or not the Afro-Americans are dividing their vote votes not only in the South, but North, East and West, for they are tired of faithless promises and blindnes to the outrages perpetrated upon a defenseless race, with apparent governmental sanction, or at least silent acquiescence. I can not see how this freedom of speech which is a constitutional right of every American citizen should affect the Council, whose purpose, is or should be, 1st, The highest and best type of manhood; 2nd, That which is of the best interest to the race, and anything after that which is worthy and honorable.

Rev. J. J. Adams,
Rochester, N. Y.

BISHOP TURNER AROUSED.

Georgia Afro-Americans Urged to Fight the Passage of the Suffrage Bill.

Macon, Ga., Special.—Bishop H. M. Turner, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, delivered a sensational address to the Georgia African Methodist Church. He urged every possible



JUSTICE JOHN M. HARLAN.

opposition by Georgia Negroes to the Hardwick bill to limit the suffrage now before the legislature. He said he proposed taking the stump himself, and implored every minister present to do likewise. He said the law would reduce every Negro to the ignominious status of a free slave, and that conditions would be worse than before the war. It would on law every black man and woman. He said the author was merely seeking notoriety and was backed by the "poor white" element. "Not one Negro in thirty ever thinks of voting," the bishop declared. "They do not sell their votes. Three white votes are sold for every Negro ballot purchased."

The bishop denounced the Supreme Court of the United States for taking away the Negroes' civil rights, but excepted Justice Harlan, who was the Negro's friend. He said the Negroes had no army, but that the God of Nations was on their side.

A Tribute to Mr. Brent.

The death of Calvin T. S. Brent on the 14th inst., removes from active church and business circles of the District, a man of exceptional ability and untiring industry. In business life he was his distinction to adorn a calling that of Architecture, which has hitherto been chosen by few men of color anywhere, and his demise, from a race and local point of view, creates a void in this constantly growing department of industry. He was ever gentle and unassuming, but throughout his life (which seems to us, all too short) he displayed a courage that knew no faltering in support of right. The business to which he was devoted since early manhood, guided his hand in the delineation of forms of beauty and symmetry, the evidences of which

may very properly invite our admiration. During the past fifteen years he has been a most active worker for the advancement and growth of the John Wesley church in its every department, and his wise counsel and untiring energy have been potent factors in its general development. The promises of the youth of Calvin Brent have indeed been splendidly redeemed. If the spirits of the just made perfect, may have knowledge of the doings of this life, then most surely have John and Elizabeth Brent, of sainted memory, rejoiced with exceeding great joy, to find their teachings so splendidly fruitful in the life of their youngest born.
JOHN H. PAYNTER.

HON. ISAAC H. SMITH.

Talks on Political Affairs, and Tells Why the Proposed Amendment Should be Defeated by the People of North Carolina.

Mr. Editor:—It is as I tell you, there is entirely too much to be seen and read in print about the Negro this and the Negro that. Let the Negro rest, and he will work out his own salvation. Uproar agitation hurts him every day. In January 1900, I will give out who will be the next president. Who will be the nominees of each party, is apparent to all now. If the republican state committee



PROF. ISAAC H. SMITH.

just half does its duty and prove to be half as good a leader as Aguinaldo is and has been for and to the Filipinos, the proposed constitutional amendment will not pass the people of North Carolina.

To ratify the constitutional amendment would clearly be hurting to thousands of good, honest people in both races, and in my race would allow the worse element, with rare exception, the right of franchise. Then, to my mind, it is not just the right thing for a preacher to allow and compel a class of the membership to pay dues, pay general expenses, sing, shout, pray, and do everything in general except take the Lord's supper at the sacramental table. When it becomes unlawful for a man of sound mind to vote, it should also be unlawful for the sheriff to collect a poll tax from him. I sincerely trust and expect the kings of this world, the good white people of North Carolina who never intend hurting anybody, will yet follow that great and wise example of the white people of the great state of Alabama. That is, when the legislature meets next January, repeal the constitutional disfranchisement clause. It is to the interest of the white republicans of North Carolina and the third party white people that the democratic party decline going any course or doing anything except pressing to a finish the ratification of the disfranchisement constitutional amendment next August. However, all the people should and ought to be taught: "He who has the greatest interest, should and of right ought to be allowed to rule and control his interest and that other fellow's."

ISAAC H. SMITH.
Newberne, N. C.



After thirteen years of fighting George Dixon, the colored feather weight, will retire from active ring work. His fight with Terry McGowan at New York City on January 9, will be his last. This is the statement issued by Tom O'Rourke, Dixon's manager. Rumor has it that he will open a cafe in 6th avenue, New York. In his own class, George Dixon was stronger than any fighter that ever milled in America. He won the feather weight title over nine years ago, and, although defeated in three or four limited round goes, Dixon is still looked upon as champion. He has earned upward of \$300,000 during his career, but spent the greater portion of it, and now when he is ready to retire, the boxer has only his earnings of the last year or two show for his long and hard campaign.

Jeffries and Corbett are slated for a fist argument September 15, of next year. We can see Corbett getting "licked" right now.

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